REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are in the case. The applicants have studied the Office Action mailed December 22, 2004 and believe the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

As set forth above, claims have been amended to clarify the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claimed inventions. It is further respectfully submitted that these amendments will not require a new search or raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner. It is submitted that these amendments place the claims in better form for appeal. These amendments were not presented earlier because they were deemed appropriate to advance prosecution after receipt of the latest Office Action. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter and consider these amendments after the final rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,314,565, the Kenner reference, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,262,726, the Stedman reference, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,515, the Hsu reference. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,314,565, the Kenner reference, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,262,726, the Stedman reference, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,515, the Hsu reference, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,205,476, the Hayes reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 is directed to a "method of installing an application program for execution on a data processing system" comprising *inter alia* "defining a user configuration of the application program installation corresponding to a particular user of the application program; encrypting and storing the user application program installation configuration in a manifest file; determining that the stored user application program installation configuration corresponds to the particular user; authenticating the particular user in response to the particular user requesting the application program; decrypting the manifest file in response to the user authentication; and

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building the application program pursuant to the user application program installation configuration decrypted from the manifest file." The Examiner concedes that the Kenner reference "does not teach that the configuration of the application program is a user configuration, nor does he teach determining that the user configuration corresponds to the particular user." It is the Examiner's position that the Stedman reference teaches "storing user configurations of an operating system for the purposes of application customization (Column 6, lines 58-62)." The applicants disagree. However, even if the Stedman citation is correctly characterized by the Examiner, a point not conceded by the present applicants, the Examiner's citation to the Stedman reference makes clear that it is initialization of the operating system which prompts the user to enter a username and password, not a response to a request to install an application program. Thus, Stedman reference, like the Kenner reference, is deficient. For example, the Examiner's citations to the Stedman reference do not teach that the building of an application program in an application program installation may be made pursuant to a user application program installation configuration, nor does the Examiner's citations to the Stedman reference teach determining that a user application program installation configuration corresponds to a particular user.

The Examiner further concedes that "[n]either Kenner nor Stedman teach encrypting the configuration in a manifest file, authorizing a user in response to a user request for the application program, and decrypting the manifest file to produce a decrypted configuration." The deficiencies of the Kenner and Stedman references are not met by the Examiner's citations to the Hsu reference. It is the Examiner's position that the Hsu reference "does teach encrypting data, authorizing a user, and in response to authorizing a user, decrypting the data (Column 1, lines 13-21).

Thus, it is clear that the Examiner's citations to the Kenner, Stedman and Hsu reference, considered alone or in combination, have no teaching or suggestion of "defining a user configuration of the application program installation corresponding to a particular user of the application program; [nor] encrypting and storing the user application program installation

configuration in a manifest file." Similarly, it is clear that the Examiner's citations to the Kenner, Stedman and Hsu reference, considered alone or in combination, have no teaching or suggestion of "determining that the stored user application program installation configuration corresponds to the particular user; authenticating the particular user in response to the particular user requesting the application program; decrypting the manifest file in response to the user authentication; and building the application program pursuant to the user application program installation configuration decrypted from the manifest file."

The Examiner's citations to the Hayes references are similarly deficient.

Independent claims 1 and 15 may be distinguished in a similar fashion. Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8 or 15. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is improper for the reasons given above. Moreover, claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 include additional limitations, which in combination with the base and intervening claims from which they depend provide still further grounds of patentability over the cited art.
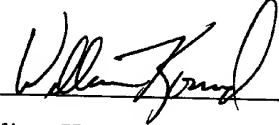
The Examiner has made various comments concerning the obviousness of certain features of the present inventions. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants have addressed those comments directly hereinabove or the Examiner's comments are deemed moot in view of the above response.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-21 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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By:_____

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